

Color Country *Fire Management*

Bureau of Land Management AZ

Dixie National Forest

Utah, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

Bureau of Land Management UT

Zion and Bryce National Parks

Bureau of Indian Affairs



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Color Country Fuels Committee Awarded National Fire Plan Honor

ALBUQUERQUE, NM -- The Color Country Interagency Fuels Committee was recognized yesterday at the National Fire Plan Conference in Albuquerque for its leading role in reducing hazardous fuels.

The Color Country Interagency Fuels Committee was presented the award for Excellence in Hazardous Fuels Reduction. More than 120 nominees competed for the 30 national awards given at the conference to organizations that furthered the goals of the National Fire Plan during 2004.

The Committee, comprising private land owners, local communities, and state and federal agencies in southwestern Utah and northwestern Arizona, worked to identify priority areas for improving prevention and suppression and as well as reducing hazardous fuels.

The Committee's work at the small town of Central, Utah, is largely credited with protecting the town during a 2004 wildfire. As one of the first national demonstrations for streamlined environmental analysis, the Committee's project removed excessive fuels and created defensible space across land ownerships in and around the town. Additionally, the Committee secured funding to acquire proper equipment and training for the volunteer fire department.

Dixie National Forest Supervisor Robert Russell said, "This award recognizes the outstanding cooperative work that is being done by federal, state and local entities to prepare for and protect our communities and infrastructure from potentially catastrophic wildfire."

The National Fire Plan represents a long-term commitment and investment that is helping to protect communities, natural resources, and most importantly, the lives of firefighters and the public. This commitment is shared among federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes, and interested publics. Collaboration, priority setting, and accountability are the guiding principles that will insure the continued success of the National Fire Plan.

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